

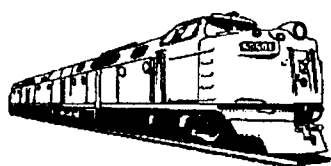
# MARC



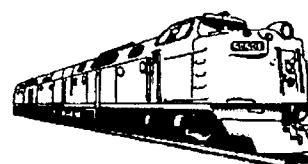
"Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana"

## SEPTEMBER 1993

# IMPORTANT! CHANGE IN PLANS FOR SATURDAY!



Some changes have been made in the meeting day activities! See the article below:



## SATURDAY CHANGES

In response to suggestions from club members we have decided to make a few changes in the plans for this saturday. These changes (mostly time changes) are discussed in detail in the **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT** in this newsletter. **PLEASE READ!**

## AUGUST VE UPGRADES

Ricky Brown	Edinburgh	NC Tech
John Charlton	Seymour	General
Bob DeSpain WB5VZT *	Greenwood	General
Timmy Griner	Pendleton	NC Tech
Gerald Lodge	Indianapolis	NC Tech
Charles Osborne KB9IOX *	Unionville	Tech
David Redding	Columbus	NC Tech
Scott Shull	Columbus	NC Tech
D. Strietelmeier	Indianapolis	NC Tech

\*indicates MARC member.

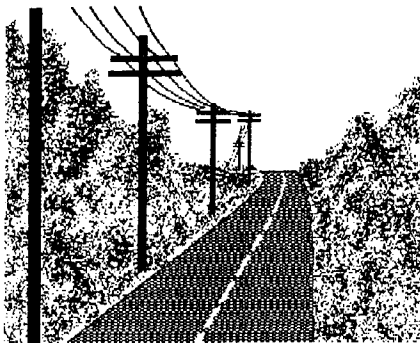
## COASTGUARD ENDS CODE

When the United States Coast Guard dropped all monitoring of its Morse code distress system on August the 5th the sixty-nine year old system literally went away with a dash. A Morse code dash!



The very last message was sent out at 8 PM Eastern Daylight Time and was as simple as the first. It simply said that there were "fair winds and following seas". But Radioman Rusty Hemenway added a few extra words. These were ... "73's and best wishes from all of us."

This message keyed in the traditional Morse code signaled the end of the use of the code by the Coast Guard. The service says that the advent of communications satellites and digital technology has made Morse code obsolete for their use. Lieutenant Commander William C. Glidden who oversees communications for the Boston based Coast Guard first district described the demise of code in his own way. Glidden said, "It's a step forward and like going from a horse and buggy to a car."



## A FRUITLESS TRIP

Bob DeSpain  
WB5VZT

Editors note: Not all planned amateur radio activities come up to our expectations. This article by WB5VZT describes one such event:

On Friday August 27th, after carefully packing my radio equipment in my 260 air conditioned truck, I headed toward the river. I arrived at Keith's (WD4JDO) house at 1400 hrs, after a long hot almost unbearable trip. The 260 wasn't working very well. Emmett (KD4JSL) was already there. We loaded The self proclaimed Chef's (Keith) food supply into his (a true air conditioned) van.

We had a convoy of two pickup trucks and a van. After an hour of viewing the pretty country side, we arrived at Brandenburg, Ky., a small community located on the Ohio River. Just before the town limits we turned onto a narrow, winding, and bumpy asphalt road. After a few miles of numerous curves, we changed to a steep gravel road which turned out to be so rough that the truck was first on one side of the road and then the next. All my carefully packed equipment bounced toward the front of the bed. I had tied most of it down or it would have been spread all over the scenic Ky roadside. After traveling about a half mile almost straight down, the road leveled out to a chuckholed super graveled highway (HI). We turned off the super highway (again HI) to a dirt road, grass growing down the middle. Dodging chuckholes, at last we were there!

I met Ron, owner of the property. ( I forget his callsign.) The cabin was located in a small valley (actually a ravine) surrounded by hills and trees. It was said to be near the Ohio River, but all I could do was look up (never did see the river).

The four of us (Ron, Emmett, Keith, and I) started putting up antennas. I brought a bunch of mast, baluns, and wire or we wouldn't have had any HF

antennas. We put up a 440 beam, a 2 meter beam with a missing element, and a 6 meter vertical. We also had a couple of mag-mount mobile antennas on cookie pans.

After dark we were ready to go on the air with two HF rigs, ATV, packet, 6 meter rig, and several 2 meter rigs for talk-in. We tried to make contacts but the bands were dead. (Or was it the location?) The signals had to bounce straight up. The Chef pan-fried a mixture of sorted ingredients in a wok. It didn't taste too bad.

I had a decision to make; sleep outside in a tent or sleep on the floor in an air conditioned cabin. I selected the floor. During a sleepless night someone turned off the air conditioner and boy did it get hot! All of the days' heat zeroed in on the spot where I was painfully reclined!

On saturday I started the day off with coffee and cigarettes. Another HF rig arrived. We now had HF on 80 meters, 40 meters and 10 meters. We made 8 or 10 contacts on HF. The 6 meter band was dead, but we could get into the 52.025 Louisville Repeater. 440 was just dead, period! We got a digi back from the Elizabethtown ATV repeater, but no other contacts. We connected on packet but never received an ack back. We just received timeouts.

I went to the store, ( believe it or not, there was a store within a days ride) and bought 25 dollars worth of thick sliced bologna and cheese. More hams had arrived during my absence. The chow hounds made short work of the bologna and cheese. I did get a couple of sandwiches before it disappeared. I used a box fan to circulate the hot outside air. At least it supplied a breeze.

We made a few more more contacts and toward evening the BIG GUN arrived! He set up his equipment and proceeded to call CQ. I had never seen a more dirty setup before, and I don't mean appearance. It didn't take very long before everyone else quit DX'ing. Not only did the BIG GUN complain when someone else *interfered* with his operation by transmitting, but I had never seen a rig's meter pegged even when powered off. His transmissions were heard on the 2 meter radios, 440 radio, and all of the HF frequencies! It wasn't long before

he was the sole operator! His 600 to 1000 watts QRTed all of us! This was the first time I had ever seen RF cause a computer to constantly re-boot or a 50 amp power supply turn itself off!

By nightfall there were about 60 hams in attendance. Some were already feeling the effects of the beer. Two bar-b-que grills were cooking hotdogs, hamburgers, and corn. There was also covered dishes of beans, potato salad, and fresh vegetables.

Two or three operated BIG GUN's equipment. The rest ate, drank, and socialized. The majority of those present weighed 250 lbs plus! I went to bed early but did not sleep. About daybreak the socialites either departed or went to bed. At last some sleep!



At daybreak I awoke to the weird sound of a scratchy-voiced rooster crowing in front of the tent! Emmett and I had elected to sleep in the screened tent that we had erected. After about 10 minutes of the rooster's crowing, with clucking in between, I got up and chased him away. He ran approximately 25 feet and continued his crowing and clucking. I pulled the covers over my head and tried to sleep. Between the smell of unwashed bodies and the sound of a small boy with a capgun, chasing and shooting at the crowing rooster, I finally decided to get up.

Speaking of unwashed bodies, the only place to take a bath was the green-water duck pond with feathers floating on top, with banks coated with white droppings, or the Ohio River. To get to the Ohio River You had to climb a hill covered with trees and briars. The duck pond was looking better all the time! In the end I finally decided to wait until I returned home to bathe.

On sunday someone cooked a large breakfast. I think it was Ron, (everyone else was still in bed or their stomachs didn't want food.) With not too many operators present, BIG GUN started calling CQ! Around noon I started taking down antennas and prepared to go home. After taking down most of the antennas by myself, a couple decided to help. After I carefully packed all of my equipment into the truck, I

departed Brandenburg, Ky, vowing never to return! After another long hot trip, I arrived home, turned on the air conditioner, and promptly took a nap before unloading the truck.

My impression? Being in a hole surrounded by trees, briars, and brush, terribly hot and dusty, with 60 partying hams wasn't too interesting or enjoyable. This will be my last trip to such an event. Out of the 60 hams present, only 7 or 8 were there to operate radios. The others were there for free chow and beer! There are plenty of good amateur radio events around. We don't need activities like this!



## EQUESTRIAN EVENT

By Bob Doles WB9AYB

The weatherman smiled upon the group of hams gathered at the Hoosier Horse Park on August 21, 1993 at 8:00 A.M. Beautiful weather continued throughout the day as approximately 240 horses and riders galloped and jumped their way around the scenic cross country course.

Those enjoying the triple pleasure of a great day outdoors, hamming, and observing an exciting event were: Bob Doles, WB9AYB; Randy, KC9LC; Vernie, N9PUA; Marilyn N9TUK; Dave, KB9EKM; Dave, WB9YIG; Lendel, W9LNX; and Jay, N9IMT. Great operators from Hendricks County, whose able help was much appreciated were: Justin, KB9HEQ; Bert, WD4HCL; and Jean, WD4HCM.

Lois, KA9IOS; Marion, WD9HTN; and Ken, W9QZE, from the Columbus Amateur Radio Club who regularly assist in the horse events, were there to lend their invaluable assistance.

Participants received a nice bag of "goodies" for their efforts. This included an insulated lunch bag, a digital watch, a tee shirt, a drink bottle, and ball point pens. Some of the hams stayed for a dinner served after the event by the Hoosier Horse Trials Officials.

(Continued on next page)

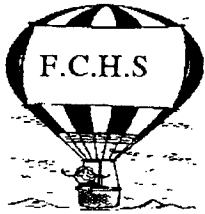
Franklin's own Melvin Smith was the P.A. man. Mel is a friend of WB9AYB from college days and a retired teacher from Greenwood High School.

Amateur radio exists for the public service it can perform. Club members are encouraged to participate in these operating events. These activities are valuable training experiences for operating during an unforeseen disaster.

One of the I. H. T. persons stated there is a move underway to organize an event in which horses hitched to wheeled vehicles would be driven over a road course of several miles in the Atterbury complex. Do we have enough willing operators to take on another such event?

-WB9AYB.

## HAMS AID HIGH SCHOOL BALLOON LAUNCH



Johnson County hams will be looking to the skies Saturday September 18th as Chuck Crist, WB9IHS, and company launch another weather balloon experiment. The eight pound payload is scheduled for lift off at 7 a.m. from the athletic field next to the Franklin Community High School. This is another in a series of science projects being conducted by science teacher Doug Craig and the aerospace and technology class at the high school.

The helium filled balloon will lift three packages almost two miles into the sky. The packages contain several ham radio transmitters and special GPS telemetry equipment. The GPS positioning and elevation telemetry data will be sent back to earth using FSK and packet on 446.00 Mhz. An on-board ATV camera will send live pictures back on 440.265 Mhz. Hams in Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and Indiana can report the balloon's progress on a 40 meter net at 7.226 Mhz.

Paul Bohrer, W9DUU, will be coordinating the chase and recovery teams by using an on-board repeater. The input frequency is 144.300. The output will be on 6 meters at 52.535 Mhz.

The balloon is expected to climb to about 100,000 feet before bursting and floating back to earth. The chase DFers are expecting a one to two hour flight which should carry the payload east-southeast about 50 miles. But, that's only an estimate. A spring launch took the balloon and equipment on a five hour ride into central Ohio. It finally came to rest in a farm field southwest of Columbus, Ohio.

According to Paul, W9DUU, two retired gentlemen saw it land and after much consternation, approached the UFO, threw it in the trunk of their car and then finally called the Indiana telephone number to report their find. Bohrer said the chase crews had a difficult time trying to keep up with the balloon as 90 knot jet stream winds carried it into the buckeye state.

The science students at Franklin Community High School will run the tracking net with the assistance of local hams. The local launch net will be on the 145.11 repeater in Johnson County. All hams are welcome to watch the launch and chase the balloon. --NT9J.



## NEW ADDITION TO THE SUNDAY NET

Amateur News Weekly is On-The-Air. Heard exclusively in central Indiana on the Mid-state Amateur Radio Club repeater, 146.835 MHZ. The report can be heard each Sunday evening during the regular club net following the Newline report. The purpose of the Amateur Radio Weekly is to feature information regarding amateurs in the tri-state area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

Jack Parker, NT9J, is the Indiana correspondent. He is looking for any kind of information relating to hams in the area. Jack is also looking to develop contacts in other clubs around the state. If you know of a club officer or an association director from another repeater pass that information along to Jack. Direct all information to Jack, NT9J, at 317-881-0817 or on packet at the KK9G BBS. .

**DON'T MISS IT!**  
**SAY GOODBYE TO SUMMER**  
**AT THE CLUB PICNIC SATURDAY!**



## LIVE STEAM PICNIC

This Saturday the regular meeting of the Midstate ARC will go on-the-road! Instead of meeting at the Johnson County EOC, hams and their families will get on track and head for the Live Steam Park at Mt. Nebo near Camp Atterbury. A map showing directions is attached to this newsletter.

Here is the plan for the day: Meet at the House of Franklin for a 9:30 a.m. caravan down to the park. A short business meeting will be held after we have had our picnic lunch. Anyone needing more information can tune into the club repeater at 146.835 Mhz.

Karen Vergara, N9KMH, has been coordinating the food and supplies. If you have not been contacted about bringing a covered dish call Karen at 862-3394. The club will provide a ham (the type you eat) and some of the members will be providing soft drinks. Bring plates and table service for your family.

YES...This is a family affair! So bring the kids, ages 0-75 and lets "party"! Everyone will enjoy the Live Steam Park. Railroading enthusiasts have built an entire railroad system complete with steam engines, cars and tracks at Mt. Nebo. And the best part is that everyone can jump on board the miniture trains and ride, ride, ride! Oh yes, lunch is expected to be served at about 12:00 noon. That is, if we can drag everyone off the trains long enough to eat! See ya there.....NT9J.

## NEW MARC CUPS



The Official Midstate Amateur Radio Coffee Cups are being ordered this month just in time for your early Christmas shopping! We are getting a 10 ounce, white, three finger cup with the club's logo proudly displayed across the front. The asking price will be \$5.50 with all proceeds going to the treasury for club expenses.

The cups should be available at the October meeting. These one-of-a-kind mugs will make wonderful Christmas gifts, birthday surprises, and will be suitable for framing. Well, that may be going too far, but they will certainly be a wonderful addition to your ham shack! So, bring your dollars and we'll see you at the October meeting. Free coffee will be provided to anyone wishing to test drive their new cup....Jack, NT9J.

## ARRL HONORS HAMS

Three more radio amateurs have had their names inscribed on a monument at ARRL Headquarters for giving their lives during public service activities: Robert Allard, KA1SJE died in August of 91 during the Ocean State Rhode Island Bike Trek. Herbert Engelman, KD4OZY was killed by lightning in September of 92 while on communications duty in Florida following Hurricane Andrew. And Shirley Emmerich, N9IKB died in February of 92 during a search and rescue drill.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a productive but hectic year! Club membership has nearly doubled and we have had many successful activities. As your president I would like to thank all of you for the help and cooperation shown me during my tenure in office. I hope you will extend the same consideration for the officers assuming office at the meeting this saturday!

The new officers are President Roy Barnes N9PFZ, Vice President Randy Shake KC9LC, Secretary Marilyn Parton N9TUK, and Treasurer Mac McCarty NV9K.

After receiving many requests for a later starting time for the Live Steam Event on saturday we have changed the time for the caravan to leave the House of Franklin to 9:30. This will allow more time for the ladies to prepare their covered dishes for the picnic. Other information about the event can be found in Jack's article on this page. 73. N9IMP



## HAVE YOU HEARD THIS?

\*\*\*\* A professor watched while a mechanic removed engine parts from his car to get to the valves. A surgeon, waiting for his car being repaired, walked over to observe the process. They began talking, and talk turned to their lines of work. "You know, doctor," the professor said, "I sometimes think this type of work is as complicated as the work we do." "Perhaps," the surgeon replied. "But let's see him do it when the engine is running!"

\*\*\*\* BUREAUCRACY: A method for transforming energy into solid waste.

\*\*\*\* Will Rogers: Instead of giving money to fund colleges to promote learning, why don't they pass an amendment prohibiting anybody from learning anything? If it works as good as Prohibition did, why, in five years we would have the smartest people on earth!

\*\*\*\* Old Maids count on fingers....young girls count on legs....

\*\*\*\* Mama mouse was getting food for her baby when the cat pounced in. Knowing she could not make it to cover Mama mouse whipped around and said, "Bark! Bark!" at the cat. The cat skidded to a halt and ran away. Mama turned to her baby and said, "See how important it is to learn a foreign language?"

\*\*\*\* Never share a foxhole with a guy braver than you!

\*\*\*\* Groucho Marx: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend" "Inside a dog, it's too dark to read!"

\*\*\*\* It's a bad day when you compliment the boss' wife on her unusual perfume and she isn't wearing any!

\*\*\*\* Church bulletin: Today's sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? with hymns from a full choir.

\*\*\*\* A Mormon Bishop is out fishing when he comes across a big mean grizzly bear. He starts to run. After several hundred feet it's clear the bear is closing fast! So the Bishop falls to his knees and prays. At least thirty seconds passed so he opens his eyes to find the bear also on his knees right behind him. The Bishop asks the bear "Are you a Mormon?" The bear looked surprised. "No, I'm just blessing my food!"

\*\*\*\* A frog goes into a bank to obtain a loan to purchase a jade statue. The loan officer, Mrs. Black, has reservations about the nature of the loan and decides to talk to the manager. "Can I help you Patty?" said the manager. She said, "There's a frog here trying to obtain a loan for a statue for his home. What should I do?" So the manager said, "It's a knick knack, Patty Black, give the frog a loan!"

\*\*\*\* What do you get if you cross a badger with a ground hog? SIX MORE WEEKS OF BAD FOOTBALL

\*\*\*\* A highly competitive foursome was going around the golf course on a hot summer day. One of the group had a sun-stroke. The others made him count it!

\*\*\*\* Q: When was radio first mentioned in the Bible? A: When God took a rib from Adam and made a loudspeaker.

\*\*\*\* What a good thing Adam had... when he said something, he knew nobody had said it before!

\*\*\*\* Eve: "Adam, do you love me?" Adam: "Who else?"

\*\*\*\* Power corrupts, but we need the electricity!

\*\*\*\* What's the difference between an angry circus owner and a Roman barber? One is a raving showman and the other is a shaving Roman.

\*\*\*\* Acoustic: Instrument used in billiards

\*\*\*\* Bacteria: The rear portion of a cafeteria.

\*\*\*\* Coincide: What you do when it rains.

\*\*\*\* Buccaneer: The price of corn.

\*\*\*\* I wish I were what I was when I wanted to be what I am now!

## BEN'S WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

Hurricane Emily dominated the nation's interest in weather this past month. Even for those of us in land-locked states, it can be impressive to watch as a powerful hurricane bears down on the coast. As far as hurricanes go, Emily was certainly no "Andrew". Even so, maximum sustained winds did reach 115 MPH, making Emily a category 3 hurricane.

Hurricanes are graded based on wind peak and storm surge (the rising sea level at landfall) from 1 to 5. Andrew was a "4" with winds of 140 MPH. The last "5" to hit the U.S. was Hurricane Camille on the Gulf coast in 1969. Top winds with Camille reached 180 MPH with gusts near 200 MPH.

There are many areas along our Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico seaboards that are very vulnerable to a category "5" hurricane. Significant commercial development along these coasts put millions more at risk. Once a hurricane moves inland it is robbed of its energy source and wind speeds drop off dramatically. The most the midwest could get from a hurricane is some heavy rains. It is virtually impossible for hurricane force winds to be maintained in a storm by the time it reaches a midwestern state like Indiana.

September is the peak month for hurricanes. To monitor the Hurricane health and welfare nets you can tune your general coverage receiver to: 14.275 Mhz or 14.325 Mhz. The Air Force tracking aircraft reportedly use 6.673 and 13.354 Mhz.

August 1993 in Indiana typified the saying "When it rains it pours". At times the month was sunny and hot, but whenever it did rain, it was often a deluge. "Officially" the month ended with 6.42 inches (a whopping 2.78" wetter than normal). That made it the 8th wettest August on record in Indianapolis. Records date back to 1871. "8" seems to be the number in August because it was also the 8th warmest August in the past 50 years. We averaged 75.3 degrees which is 2.1 degrees above normal.

Ben Woods, Meteorologist WISH TV-8.

YAESU KENWOOD ICOM  
ALINCO STANDARD

# R & L

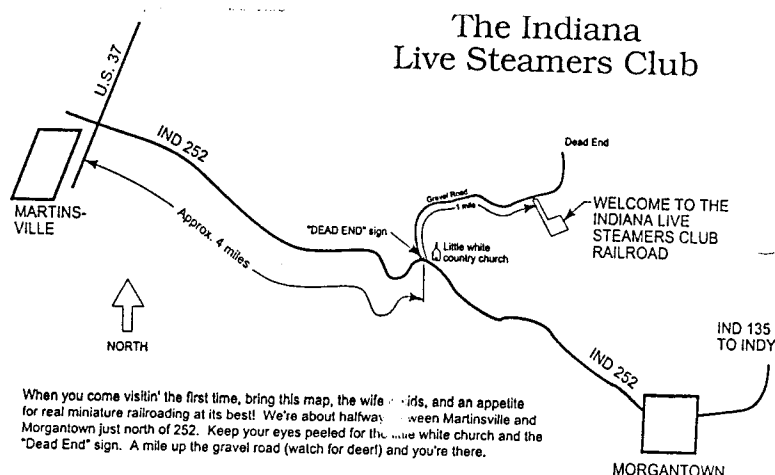
## Electronics

The "Candy" Store for  
Central Indiana Hams!

8524 E. Washington St. Indianapolis 46219

Phone: (317) 897-7362

1-(800) 524-4889 Fax (317) 898-3027



**Mid-State Amateur Radio Club**

Post Office Box 836 Franklin, In. 46131

Club Repeater: 146.835

President: Robert Cammack N9IMP

RACES: Bill Brinkmann KA9ZMU

V. President: Randy Shake KC9LC

ARES: David Wendt KA9OOH

Secretary: Bill Brinkmann KA9ZMU

Activities: Jack Parker NT9J

Treasurer: Mac McCarty NV9K

Rptr. Trustee: Dave Julian WB9YIG

Editor: Mac McCarty NV9K

Weather: Ben Woods Channel 8